

Now You're Talking

This engaging and motivating DVD was produced by the lead institution of the Yorkshire and Humber consortium for Routes into Languages, The University of Hull, in collaboration with the Regional Language Network Yorkshire & Humber (RLNYH). Hull-based Business Language Champion company,

and uses regional Business Language Champions in the Yorkshire and Humber region to get the message across as to how important languages are.

The target audiences are secondary school and college pupils, language teachers, other subject teachers, head teachers, parents, careers teachers and advisers and potential Business Language Champion recruits. Through the engagement of these audiences, *Now You're Talking* highlights the importance of languages in the world of work and will hopefully encourage more young people to continue language study throughout their education and beyond.

The DVD consists of a range of interviews with business leaders and employees in the Yorkshire & Humber region such as the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Camira Fabrics and Howden-based translation company, Language is Everything. It also includes interviews with young people from GCSE to A Level, as well as overseas and native university students. They all give their honest opinions about how languages have helped them, or will help their future careers and they enthuse with positive messages throughout.

Former Look North presenter Damian Johnson was engaged to present the DVD and the choice of images in the DVD have been specifically designed to be attractive to a large and predominantly young audience.

Now You're Talking was launched at the Routes into Languages 2 Years On conference in Birmingham in

October. It has received excellent feedback so far and schools are already keen to receive their copy to show at options evenings, in assemblies or on loop in school reception foyers. Business Language Champion participants feel so enthusiastic about the DVD that a number have requested a link to the on-line version from their own websites!

If you want to order a copy of *Now You're Talking* then please email Routes Yorkshire and the Humber at: routes@hull.ac.uk

The DVD will also be available shortly on the Routes into Languages website: www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/yorkshire



Vision Films, was engaged in the production of the DVD. The main aims of the DVD are to raise awareness of the relevance of language skills across a wide range of professional sectors in a way that appeals to younger and adult viewers alike. It aims to raise awareness of the importance of studying a language in today's competitive environment, as many employers argue that languages are key to successful business activities in today's global economy. Without more than one language, young people could be at a disadvantage in the labour market. The DVD focuses on this message throughout

The University of Hull

Beverly High School is delighted with the way that student ambassadors from Hull University have boosted the confidence of their language students and helped secure some good results.



Beverly Lawrence, a teacher in the school's MFL Department, said: "Last year we used two ambassadors (German speaking) to provide extra speaking opportunities for our AS students. The ambassadors were excellent in boosting the confidence of the AS group and giving regular, individual speaking practice in preparation for the speaking exam. I know the group feel that they benefited from the regular contact and we were very pleased with the AS speaking results and I am sure the work with the ambassadors had a very positive impact."

Beverly teaches French and German across the key stages (German to A Level). She is an ITT mentor and works closely with student teachers also having responsibility for liaising with the foreign language assistants.

"I think regular contact with native speakers is very important. It would be good to make links with other subjects so pupils can link language learning to science, maths and so on. An awareness of cultural knowledge linked to language learning is also important. It is necessary to see the wider benefits of language learning."

Pupils were very enthusiastic about the students ambassadors. Emma for example said: "I thought it was a really valuable experience engaging with the ambassadors who visited my school. I really think it helped me achieve a good grade in my AS speaking exam."

Another pupil Ava said: "It really boosted my confidence. The girls were very friendly and approachable. It was good to hear other people's accents when speaking German, in addition to hearing my teacher's."

Beverly Lawrence added: "We are looking forward to continuing our link with Routes Yorkshire and The Humber (Routes Y&H) and the University of Hull as a way of promoting language learning and providing language learning opportunities to our students."

Beverley Longcroft School

Dawn Lear is acting curriculum leader of MFL at Longcroft School in Beverley and was delighted with the increase in confidence of GCSE pupils when taking their oral exams.

"Presentations by student ambassadors certainly contributed to pupil confidence and were a great motivating force," she said. "Our pupils have enjoyed chances to meet young people close to their own age at events like the presentation made to our Year 9 pupils just before the options evening last year."

Although Dawn says this it is early days to predict how successful Routes into Languages will prove for her school in the long term – she hopes that: "In the future, working with Routes Y&H and the University of Hull, we hope to fully encourage uptake at GCSE and A Level and help all students become more confident in speaking a foreign language."

Her long term objective is to help pupils: "See the value of languages and understand one another."

Leeds Metropolitan University

Nab Wood School, Bradford, has had a momentous year so far winning a trophy for their contribution to MFL promotion regionally.

"We were presented with this at the Languages Carnival for the European Day of Languages," said Head of MFL and co-ordinator of EAL and G&T, Janet Wilson.



The school has welcomed Leeds Metropolitan student ambassadors in school, held taster sessions in Chinese and Italian for year 8 students, and taken year 9 students to a taster day at Leeds Met.

Janet went on: "We teach French and Spanish in KS3 and have issues with the uptake of a languages at KS4. Currently we do not have any students taking MFL in year 11, however, due to



our intense promotion of MFL, our introduction of the GCSE course and our links with Leeds Met, we were delighted that 30 students are currently studying Spanish in Year 10."

Janet is in no doubt that Routes Y&H has played a major part in persuading students to study a modern foreign language. "The students have been able to see the 'fun' in learning a language. They have seen that by learning one foreign language they are learning skills which are transferable to another language. They have seen the opportunities which languages can offer them in Higher Education. They have had the chance to be taught by 'experts'."

The effect of this has been to make languages more relevant to the students – they're not just working towards an exam. Uptake at KS4 has increased dramatically.

Janet added: "Working with Routes Y&H has enabled the school to offer a different dimension to language learning which has enabled our students to see language learning in a much wider context. We will continue to attend activities organised by Leeds Met and continue to welcome student ambassadors into school and we look forward to more 'taster sessions' in a variety of languages."

University of Sheffield

One of the main activities that the University of Sheffield has focused on during the past year has been the 'Adopt a Student Project', run in conjunction with Wisewood Sport and Community College and Routes into Languages Yorkshire and The Humber (Routes Y&H).

Jane Groves, Head of Languages at Wisewood, commented: "Most recently we took part in the joint Routes Y&H and SHELL project of 'Adopt a class/adopt a student' and it is proving to be highly successful. A second-year University student, India Woof, came to talk to our Y8 pupils over a number of weeks, introducing herself and her reasons for going to France in her third year at University. She created a blog that the pupils can visit and where they can ask her questions. India regularly adds reports and photos to her blog as well as links to videos of

where she has been, (such as an outdoor musical event in Paris). The scheme is ongoing and will be followed up when India visits Wisewood at the end of her stay in France."

In addition to the 'Adopt a class' scheme, Jane also stated: "We are also keen to be part of the Languages and Sport project. We successfully bid for this project, with the help of our Languages assistant and a member of the PE staff, and next week and the week after we shall be teaching trampolining to a class of Y9s in French. This will be the first time that they will have done trampolining at school, and the first time that they've done PE in French. They are very excited at the idea. They will be marked for how much French they use (trampolining terms and words of



encouragement) as well as how much of a routine they perform on the trampoline. This is for the pupils to associate French with fun and adventure. We intend to extend the project to other Y9 classes and to German ones."

As far as Jane is concerned Routes into Languages still has a long way to go in opening up modern languages to more young people: "But the creation of Routes into Languages and the chance to be involved is a great opportunity for students in school or college and also for those at university."

Sheffield Hallam University

Notre Dame High School in Sheffield has welcomed student representatives from both Sheffield universities into the school during the past year. The students have helped with a sixth form convention evening and the universities also became involved in sponsoring school trips and visits to Spain and Germany in the summer of 2009.

Gill Bishop, Head of Languages at Notre Dame, said: "Our Y11 students responded well to speaking to the University students during the convention - the survey that Routes into Languages Yorkshire and The Humber (Routes Y&H) asked students to complete regarding their attitudes to languages learning was also useful. Photos that Y9 and Y10 students took on their trips abroad were entered into a competition run by Routes Y&H - the winning photo was made into a poster which looked really impressive and will help to promote interest in other trips we might plan in the future."

Pupils at Notre Dame can learn French, German and Spanish to A level. Gill said that NVQ business courses are now a popular alternative option to GCSE. "We are looking at actively

promoting the practical uses of language learning other than academic routes in this respect, perhaps through links with businesses."

Wisewood Sport and Community College

Wisewood Sport and Community College has an excellent relationship with Sheffield Hallam University in promoting modern language learning. Routes Y&H is seen as having a vital role to play in opening up modern languages to more young people.

"At Wisewood, we pride ourselves on the way that we make languages interesting to a wide range of students and abilities," said Jane Groves, Head of Languages at Wisewood. "We like to invite student ambassadors in from the University whenever possible because they clearly have an impact on our students."

One of Wisewood's success stories can be seen in the highly successful intervention days which are run by the college for GCSE border-line pupils, the majority of whom are boys, at an outdoor pursuits centre, combining intensive oral revision with outdoor activities.

Within Wisewood Sport and Community College, French and German GCSE are taught as well as the KS3 Framework. The College also offers NVQ level 1 French and Spanish and Level 2 French (in one year in Y11).

"Students from Sheffield Hallam University come in to talk to all Y9 classes about why they learn languages and what they have done and will do with their languages. The Y9s are very interested in hearing what the students have to say," said Jane. "By combining forces like this - we are able to make a very clear and coherent case for language learning."

Dearne High School

Kirsty Thomas, newly appointed Learning Champion for MFL at Dearne High School, Rotherham, has big plans for language learning at her new school. With the help of Routes Y&H she is planning a school-wide languages week based around the World Cup in June 2010.

Kirsty explained: "The previous school I worked at (Kingstone, Barnsley) established a link with Sheffield Hallam University for the Y9 languages days in January. We also had an event there where Routes into Languages staff came to Kingstone to work with Y10 for a morning and also Kingstone were sponsored last year for trips abroad. I now work at The Dearne High and am setting up the same involvement."

"We need to continue to work with Y9 and KS4 pupils to encourage further learning by doing creative, engaging and achievable activities. Pupils love coming to the university and meeting positive role models for language learning."

"Pupils in this area need access to positive role models for language learning and knowledge about the opportunities available to them for the future - Routes into Languages provides all this!"

In response, Maria Scheule (Senior Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University) said: "Through the Routes into Languages project, we're working with Kirsty to fund a language trip abroad

to give more pupils from Dearne the opportunity to experience other cultures and countries. Y9 pupils from Dearne will also be amongst 100 pupils from schools across Sheffield taking part in our annual language days in January held in The Business School at Sheffield Hallam University and we'll be offering our support to their school wide language week in June."

The University of Bradford

Requests to learn Spanish are coming in thick and fast at St Bede's School, Bradford.



Faculty Leader for Humanities and Modern Languages, Carol Wade explained: "I have been involved in a number of projects with Bradford University and we have also been lucky enough to have attended events at both the University of Hull and the University of Leeds under Routes into Languages (RiL) events. I teach Spanish and French but we have found that Spanish is by far the more popular of the two languages."

Carol is delighted to be able to report that through the RiL programme: "We have been able to offer our pupils across Years 7 to 13 a wide variety of opportunities to explore and further their understanding and love of languages. We have organised Chinese intensive days, Japanese intensive days, French revision sessions for students preparing for their GCSE exams, a languages café and also conversation support for A Level and KS4 pupils. The students have visited the University to see the facilities that are on offer there."

Carol explained that the impact of RiL has been very good. "Pupils have had their minds opened to such a variety of languages which has given them an interest in furthering these. Confidence in speaking with native speakers has been raised and students have built a good fluency in their target language. Attitudes to language learning have become more positive and we have a very pleasing number of students opting to take languages into KS4 and 5. In the future I would like to see a closer partnership with increased opportunities."

Carol added: "Students of MFL get very little encouragement in these difficult subjects and we need to continue to have the benefits of having a second or third language high profiled."

"The Routes project has added an extra dimension to the opportunities we would normally be able to offer our pupils".

The University of York

FIVE Modern Language tutors from the University of York gave Year 10 pupils a chance to taste Japanese, Chinese, Arabic, Italian and Spanish in an "Alternative Curriculum Day" at Fulford School, York, on 23rd October.



The pupils who are studying French, German or both at school were split into 5 groups by the teachers with each group being allocated 3 of the 5 languages offered by the university.

Esther Green, teacher of French and German, KS4 Coordinator for German and link person with the University for Routes into Languages, together with Mark Richardson, Modern Language Area Curriculum Leader, believe that exposure to a foreign language and a different culture is an excellent way to broaden pupils' horizons and outlook.

Esther has been instrumental in setting up previous projects at Fulford School together with Routes Y&H. These include University Ambassadors from the Department of Language and Linguistics, as well as LFA students from a wide range of study backgrounds going to the school to promote languages at both GCSE and AS/ A2 level and to make pupils aware of their benefits in a wide range of situations and professions. She also organised lunchtime language clubs where tutors from the University visited the school for lunchtime lessons in languages the pupils don't normally have access to, such as Arabic, Chinese and Japanese.

Esther commented: "The impact of Routes Y&H has been sizeable. Pupils are really encouraged to continue with foreign

languages. In Year 12, for instance, the school has 10 pupils doing German now as opposed to 4 the year before. Staff firmly believe that at least part of this increase is due to the visits of the university ambassadors. According to Esther, Mark and other members of the department, the professional appearance and enthusiasm of the university students had a clear effect on the pupils. Pupils could relate to the young university linguists and some understood for the first time the benefits a language can bring to a huge range of professions. Previously, most of the pupils had thought that languages were useful only for language teachers or interpreters.

The exposure to the languages that are not normally available at Fulford has also broadened the cultural experience of pupils. They were clearly fascinated by traditions in more exotic countries and enjoyed meeting tutors who come from these countries. "What I enjoyed most was when we got taught how to make origami water bombs," commented one pupil and another said: "I enjoyed learning new languages with my friends. Learning about different cultures was fantastic."

From the University perspective, staff were impressed with the interest, and enthusiasm of the pupils as well as their ability to pick vocabulary or concepts up very quickly.

Staff in the Language Department commented on the fact that it was a fabulous opportunity to expose their pupils to new languages and cultures. This is normally almost impossible, especially at a state school. Routes Y&H has given the pupils a chance they would normally not have had. Staff were unanimous in saying that the language input provided by "Routes" has led to a more positive outlook, as far as languages are concerned, among the pupils. One member of staff remarked that she had 3 students in her Year 9 class who said to her that they changed their mind and would now continue with their languages because of the input of the ambassadors. "Pupils also realised that languages are more than exercises in a text book and the personal contact with the tutors played a significant role in that," commented one teacher. "The language clubs with the exposure to new languages and cultures, as well as the Alternative Language Day, have proved excellent opportunities for those pupils who normally find languages difficult as everybody started from the very beginning. This gave even weaker linguists a chance to do well and enjoy a language as well as boost their confidence. This was helped by the fact that these projects were led not by their own teachers, but by Routes Y&H staff and university tutors."

But the story does not end there...

Christmas language and culture weeks are planned and details of more visits by ambassadors are being finalised. The possibility of Fulford Sixth form linguists to come to York University to attend a University language session is under discussion and there are also plans afoot to combine a language and sport event.

Forthcoming events

Chinese New Year Celebrations

A whole host of language and cultural activities centred around the Chinese New Year for schools across the Leeds area at Leeds Metropolitan University
February 26th 2010

Going Global

A Gifted and Talented day for GCSE and AS students at the University of Hull
March 24th 2010

Speak Up!

Sixth Form conferences for AS linguists with a focus on aural activities and interpreting at The University of Leeds.
March 25th and 30th 2010

National Networks

National Network for Interpreting

www.nationalnetworkforinterpreting.ac.uk

National Network for Translation

www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/translation

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Juliet Park

reports from the first ever Active Languages conference in Italy.



The first ever Languages Meets Sport conference took place in the beautiful town of Trieste in Italy in October last year. The event brought together people from all over the European Union who are passionate about how the medium of sport can be used to develop cultural understanding and tolerance between young people of different nationalities as well as to enhance their linguistic skills.

The conference included key note speakers from the European Commission and the successful Arsenal Football club language project and involved a whole host of smaller sessions showcasing a wide range of interesting projects and initiatives from different countries including Spain, Holland, Denmark, Spain, Poland, Slovenia and Rumania as well as the UK.



I for one very much hope that this will be the first of many Languages Meets Sport conferences and that those who attended will formulate successful partnerships for implementing new and exciting initiatives in the future.

Football, not surprisingly, featured highly on the agenda but there were also seminars focusing on other sporting areas such as karate, sailing and rugby together with more general projects involving multisport programmes and the teaching of business languages through sports and funded work experience sports placements.

The event which attracted a lot of media attention was an exciting forum for the sharing of best practices and the opportunity for different nations and projects to establish contact with each other.

